

Jonah Bonch
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A N
IMPARTIAL SENTIMENTAL
L E T T E R,
RELATING TO THE
UNHAPPY DISSENTIONS
NOW SUBSISTING BETWIXT
OLD-ENGLAND AND AMERICA.

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

J. E. T. F. H.

CHICAGO, ILL.

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OLD-ENGLAND

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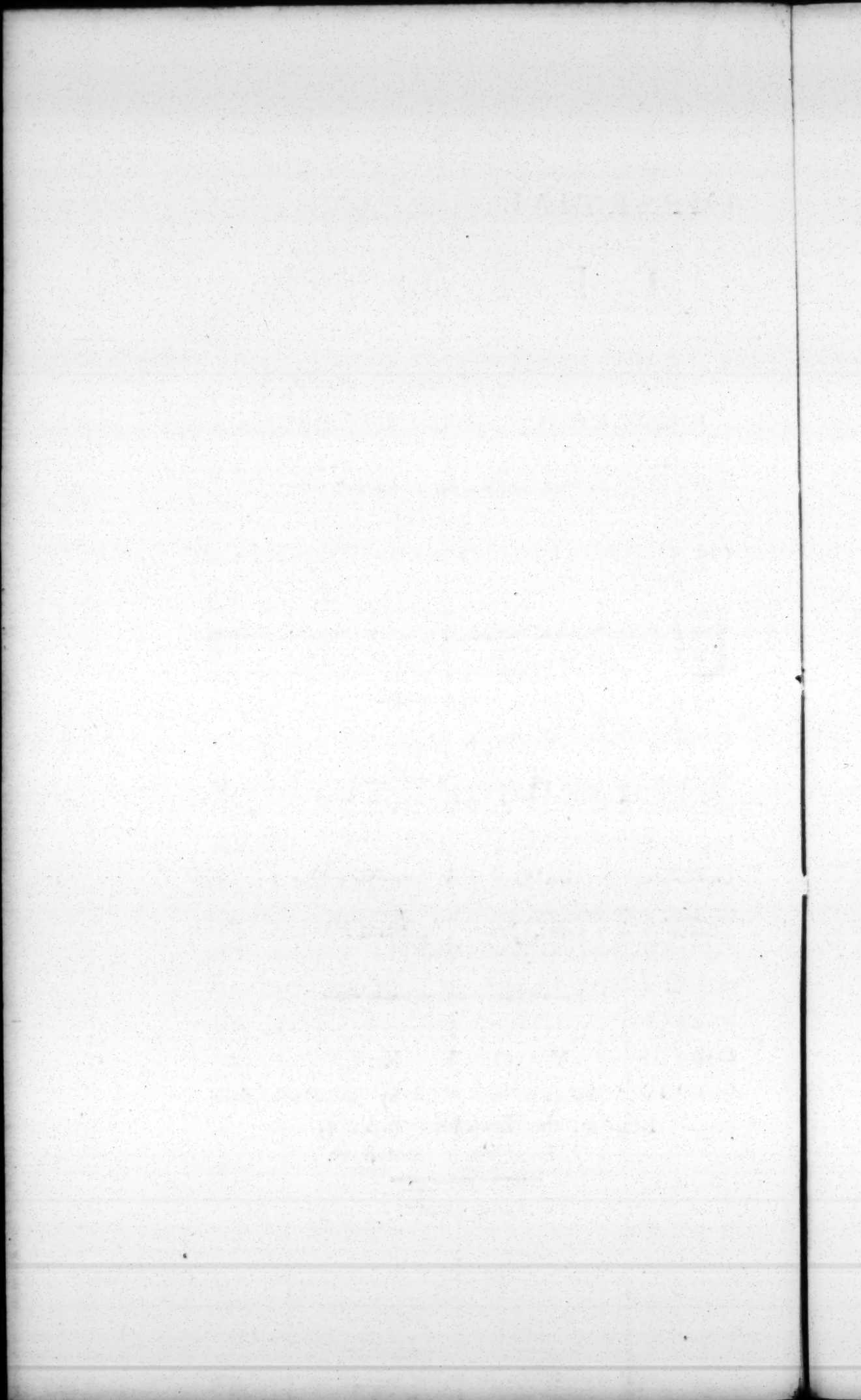
Wrote a small Time ago at the particular Requests of a respectable Baronet, and a worthy Member of Parliament, in order to have been presented to the Right Honourable LORD N****; and since revised, corrected, and enlarged, with Annotations, and an exotic Case of Taxation, very similar to the present One with the Americans.

B Y
RICHARD-JOHN TETLOW,
OF KNOTTINGLEY, NEAR PONTEFRACT,
ATTORNEY AT LAW, F. S. A. AND NOTARY PUBLICK.

Claudite jam rivos, pueri: sat prata biberunt. VIRG.

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M DCC LXXVI.



TO THE
RIGHT HONOURABLE
FREDERICK LORD N****.

MY LORD,

UPON the reception of this, I am positive your Lordship will be greatly surprized, not only at the presumption I have taken in addressing your Lordship, being, in point of distinction, so much inferior to your Lordship, but at the matter contained in the following address: But, my Lord, as I am sensible the greater the personage is, the greater is his affability and condescension; and as the object I have in view is national, and affects the universal empire of Great Britain; and as I have the inconceivable happiness of being born an Englishman, and therefore, as a Denizen * of the kingdom,

A dom,

* Or Citizen.

dom, justly entitled to offer to your Lordship, as a public Minister, any scheme, plan, opinion, or sentiment for the good of the common-wealth, I most humbly hope your Lordship will, without discomposure, peruse these few lines. If I can help it, I will not keep your Lordship a minute in suspense in regard to this my intended design; and therefore, without circumlocution, periphrasis, or tedious exordiums, my Noble Lord, it is the thought of the unhappy differences, commotions, and distractions existing betwixt England and her Colonies that incites me, as a friend to my country, to exhibit to your Lordship a few conjectural, political, or rather uncouth rustical observations, or apothegms, in regard to the state.

First, my Lord, I conceive “that no one can say he has any thing his own by a right of nature, but either by ancient immemorial seizure, as those who first planted uninhabited countries; or, secondly, by conquest, as those who have got things by the right of the sword; or else by some law, compact, agreement, or lot.” This
is

is the opinion of Tully. It is by some of these means, I apprehend, the Colonists (corroborated and confirmed by their charters) do now enjoy their settlements; so that it is reasonable that they should possess, unmolested, their new-settled dominions in subordination to the true intent and meaning of their charters, and their due allegiance to their king and country; (since, upon the granting of their charters, there was a tacit, implied, and reserved obedience to their first planters or propagators). Should they run counter to, or exceed the bounds of their charters indubitably, without *law-martial*, like other incorporations, by an information in the nature of a *quo warranto* in the court of King's Bench, the validity of those charters, and whether they had acted consonant to, or dissonant from, the same, might be tried: So that their colonies are conditional, circumscribed, and qualified, and have not that unbounded latitude as what Tully seems above to insinuate. Tully's meaning is indefinite; but the legal sense and spirit of the charters are restricted and confined.—Upon a suppo-

sition that their charters were forfeited, then, before martial law and hostilities had commenced, it would have been happy if those charters, in due course of law, had been annihilated or abrogated; and then by his present Most Sacred Majesty, upon repentance, and restitution of damages being made to the parties injured, the Colonists might have been restored to their ancient charters, liberties, rights, dominions, and franchises, as has been done in preceding reigns by fresh charters and writs of restitution: And, upon the supposition aforesaid, my Lord, I cannot help thinking but that our nation have been premature * in commencing martial law against the colonies before they had first dissolved and annihilated their charters; for, upon the litigation of the information in the nature of the writ of *quo warranto*, the colonies had an inherent innate right to have appeared in the court of King's Bench, and pleaded to, and litigated the same: And, upon the said continued supposition,

* “ Justum est bellum quibus necessarium; & pia arma quibus *nulla* nisi in armis relinquitur *spes*.”

LIV. lib. ix. chap. i.

position, the common law of England was the rule, standard, and criterion upon which they, in the first instance, ought to have been tried; and by which, I think, though a corporation, they had a right to their appeal and attain; though, on the other hand, as a body politic, I think they could not be attained.—

However, Most Noble Lord, since it has been the divine will that affairs are brought to this terrible crisis, I apprehend there are only two ways of terminating this grand dispute betwixt the Mother and the Daughter, the one by Reason, and the other by the Sword; and may *Ens entium*, the supreme governor of the universe, grant that the decision may be effected by treaty, and not by military force.

There is no doubt yet but that God almighty would accomplish our desires, if the Archbishops and Bishops would supplicate Him, and recommend a most solemn general fast through the three kingdoms, which they have not yet done, (but which the Americans have done) and which certainly is the duty of holy-church. The Græcians and Romans never

ver undertook the smallest enterprize but they first sacrificed to, and implored the assistance of the gods. We are now swallowed up and absorbed in luxury and remissness; and it is to be feared (like Rome) we shall fall by our own strength. *Per nostrum scelus non patimur iracunda Jovem ponere fulmina!*

As the Provincials have had the better of the battle already, (but nothing is more fluctuating and inconstant than victory, my Lord) it may naturally be supposed they are elated with success, and that thousands will, like a Noble Lord with his forces at the battle of Bosworth-field by King Richard the Third and the Earl of Richmond, join the stronger side. It requires a Machiavel, therefore, to extricate the nation out of its present dilemma.—My Lord, diseases desperate grown, by desperate appliances are relieved, or not at all, says the inimitable Shakespeare. If our forces are routed, others must be raised: The nature of the case requires it. Necessity has no law. You will say, my Lord, *hic labor, hoc opus est!* I would not have your Lordship be too anxious
about

about the matter, though *decidunt turres graviori ictu*. Your Lordship may be assured the three estates of the realm will not suffer old England, replete with money and men, or its Colonies, to be lost for a subsidy or two: And although the Americans alledge they fight *pro aris & focis*, and have unremitting, unwearied fresh supplies of men, like torrents pouring forth upon us, and as the head of one hydra is cut off another sprouts out, yet there are innumerable instances in history of Alexander the Great, Julius Cæsar, Edward the Black Prince, and other generals, overcoming their enemies with a disparity of numbers. Fabius Maximus, by protracting the war, conquered the Carthaginians. The Danes, for a long time, like swarms of locusts, infested this kingdom by running, reiterated, and retreating fights.—*Nil desperandum est*, whilst God and justice are on our side.

But, my Lord, to come more closely to the point: When your Lordship has a force sufficient to repel fire by fire, pray would it not be the most proper to found the Americans to know if they were willing

ling to refer the cause to the amicable decision, or arbitration, of forty-eight commissioners, or moderators, to be elected on each side, part English and part Americans? This would be the means to save an ocean of blood. Conferences and accommodations were the case of King John and his Barons; and this was the case with King Charles the First and his Parliament;—and this will be the very case at the last with us and the Americans, when we have exhausted our treasures, and waded up to the knees in the blood of our fellow-subjects; and, by extenuating our strength, subjected ourselves to the invasion of France and Spain: For, my very good Lord, without half the eyes of Argus, it is very plain to see those two (our rival perfidious nations) will never rest until they have recovered again their lost reputation and the pecuniary territorial losses of the last war. Their general cry is, like the Romans with Carthage, *Britannia delenda est*. And although, according to Grotius and the laws of nations, no war can be justly undertaken unless satisfaction hath been first demanded, and proclamation of it made

made publickly before-hand ; yet, as in the last war, we seized their ships without a formal declaration of war according to the Feacial Laws, those two nations will retaliate, and never forget the supposed breach of faith, notwithstanding, virtually in the last war, they had first commenced, on their part, hostilities, by unlawfully attacking our Colonies. *Punica fides*, *Gallica fides*, and *Hispanica fides* are synonymous and analogous ; and *timeo Danaos dona ferentes* is often to be remembered. My Lord, trust France and Spain no farther than your Lordship can see them, and then they cannot deceive your Lordship.—My Lord, recruit the soldiers, man the fleets, hoist the sails, pacify the shipwrights, and save Gibraltar and these nations from ruin.

Pray, my Noble Lord, doth your Lordship think the Americans would refer their cause to the Right Honourable Earl Chatham, whose moral, political, complicated, intellectual faculties and abilities are as deep and unfathomable as the profoundest pit ; and who is, metaphorically speaking, a precious *diamond* in the English

glish crown, in lieu of that which was unluckily lost at his Majesty's coronation? Or will they put their case to the noble city of London, like the great Earl of Warwick, (metaphorically speaking) the makers, and supporters, and, if disoblighed, the discomposers of K—gs?

But, my Lord, I fear your Lordship will retort on me, and say, by the English condescending to refer, or compromise ~~the~~ matter, it is dishonourable, and is a waiver and purgation of all treasons committed by the Colonies in America. But, my Noble Lord, besides Sir Walter Raleigh's case, in litigations, some side must first make proposals of reference, and I think their case is of the last importance, and their charters ought to be thoroughly digested, well weighed and considered by the twelve Judges of this realm, Attorney and Solicitor General, and the King's Council, in order to save so many precious souls alive. Still, perhaps, there may be left an honourable, legal retraction.

My Noble Lord, without adulation or flattery, few of the nobility equalize, or
exceed

exceed your Lordship for sagacity and ingenuity; and I have not the least ambiguity or doubt but that your Lordship knows that, towards the latter end of the reign of Charles the Second, the * Massachusetts Colony was accused of violating their charter, and by a judgment in the King's Bench of England, was deprived of it; and, I believe, from that time to the revolution they remained without any charter, and then, soon after that period, they received a new one, which, though very favourable, was much inferior to the extensive privilege of the former; so that, my Noble Lord, the last above quotation is some small testimony of my position, in regard to the proceeding in the first instance upon their charters.

I think, my Lord, the real intentions of the Americans are not yet thoroughly known; and, perhaps, like Oliver, being flushed with their recent victories, if disaffection (which God forbid!) to our

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* See William Guthrie, Esq; on the Globe, and present State of the several Kingdoms of the World, p. 584.

most amiable King reigns in their hearts, they may affect independency, and then consequently they will reject propositions of peace. If their designs should agree with my imaginations, it behoves all the European Powers, who have Colonies in America, to unite their forces to prevent a general revolt; and it could not be amiss, my Lord, by some of your Lordship's agents, obliquely to intimate this to the Spanish and other foreign ambassadors; for a politician of the least discernment will easily conclude that the gold mines of Mexico and Peru will be no inconsiderable acquisitions.

I hope the army under the superintendency and command of General G—e will never be in that most deplorable situation, or upon the brink of a precipice, where they cannot advance with safety, or retreat with honour, as the old Britons were when they said that their enemies *drove* them to the sea, and the sea back to their enemies. Whilst the ships can ride safely upon the Atlantic ocean without the molestation of Mars, Boreas, or Neptune, it is prudent to intercept the trade, and
watch

watch the motions of the enemy; but when the impetuosity and severity of the season obstruct, the soldiers and navy, may, without the least imputation of deserting their cause, return into Britain to refresh themselves and careen their ships.

Delays, my Lord, sometimes are dangerous, and too much indulgence is often pernicious. If possible, *puncto temporis*, adequate forces should be raised. When the wolf is at the door there is no dallying. Propositions of peace must either, my Lord, be propounded to the Americans or Columbians, or else, as above intimated, force must be repelled with force: But, my very good Lord, I repeat it again, first, expressly or obliquely, let the dispositions of the Americans be ferretted out, in order to discover whether they aim at independency or not.

To be sure, if, according to the old adage, *vox populi* be *vox Dei*, my Lord, the commonalty, the very nerves and sinews of war, in America, from general report, are principally well-wishers and advocates for the Colonists; so that the
most

most consummate Ministry, and the best officers in the world cannot withstand their own internal, reluctant, though, if they would fight, insuperable, impregnable force. The Phoenix expires in her own flames. Alexander, in Asia, when his soldiers mutinied, was in a terrible condition. The Americans, as I said before, my Lord, assert they fight for life, liberty, and property, (the three cardinal blessings); but our officers and common soldiers, through compassion, it is believed, often handle their arms in tears.

The Plebeans, or common people in America, (from my simple observations) my Lord, *alledge* that all mankind are born free; that representation and taxation *,
like

* The most striking and remarkable case of taxation, in print, that I have seen, similar to the English and Americans, is that of Edward the Black Prince, in the reign of Edward the Third, mentioned in the *Fædera*, when that Prince studied methods to satisfy his troops by imposing a tax upon his dominions in Aquitaine, called *fouage*, or *smoke-money*, because it was laid upon every hearth or chimney. This expedient bid fair for success if, after the peace of Bretigny, the King, his Father, had not unhappily revoked several grants

like the bark and the tree, are inseparable ; that, if the Americans will raise money for us, it is immaterial how they do raise it, so as the mode, or manner, only be permanent, perpetuated, and stabilitated ; and that, as the occidental commerce, or that of America, is particularly, in
the

grants which he had made to the principal Lords of Guyenne, at a time when his affairs required him to make sure of the fidelity of the Gascons. This revocation so incensed those noblemen that they resolved to be revenged ; and upon their appeal to the new King of France, he was not wanting to excite them underhand. In short, the Prince of Wales refusing to redress this pretended abuse (for that Prince certainly apprehended the taxation was right, though his affairs were greatly embarrassed at that time) at the complaints of those Lords and their vassals, or to appear, after he was cited, before the King of France as Lord Paramount of Guyenne, (notwithstanding his former resignation of that sovereignty) ; and afterwards falling sick of the dropsy, so that he could not oppose Bertrand du Guesclin, the Constable of France, in Guyenne, a general revolt ensued. See the *Fædera* itself.—Sir Henry Spelman, under the word *fuage*, also mentions this very tax of one shilling upon every hearth, or fire-side, and that it caused a general revolt in Aquitain.—Thomas Blount, Esq; under *fuage*, (without taking notice of the revolt) likewise shews the same tax, and quotes Rot. Parl. 25 Edw. III. and Froisart, cap. 141.

the first place, restricted and bound to us, the Americans, rather than be trampled under foot; pursue the dictates of nature and self-preservation.

Under these perplexed complex circumstances, lenient, not caustic measures, my Lord, should, to save all our kingdoms if possible, first be used: And the dispensations of these measures should likewise, without indications of timidity, be circumspectly, politically, and most accurately applied. Therefore, in the name of the most holy, blessed, indivisible, impartible Trinity, (most glorious extension, expansion, diffusion, retraction, and coalescence!) my Lord, please to advise one of the best of Kings, (who, instead of indirectly accumulating and heaping up riches, like Henry the Seventh and many other of his royal predecessors, out of his innate intrinsic good nature, presents his share of acquisitions to his soldiers and subjects) to call a parliament as soon as shall be adjudged necessary, (and the sooner the better) and to lay before that right honourable, tremendous, and most respectable body a true state of the national

tional affairs, and then, by a threefold union and concurrence in minds and politics, his Most Sacred Majesty, the Parliament, and your Lordship will be safe, and, without doubt, God Almighty will direct your councils for the best.

The rock that King Charles the First and the Family of Stewart split upon, was a too tenacious exertion of the rights of Prerogative, and a total neglect and contempt of Parliaments, which parliaments are the very vitals of the English constitution, and the polar stars by which the King and people are to steer: And whilst the King and his Ministers pursue the tracts prescribed and laid down by uncorrupted, unpolluted Parliaments, they cannot err. A melleous or moderate relaxation, but not an unkingly, unreasonable relinquishment of prerogative, gains the hearts of the people. *In medio tutissimus ibis.* I wish to God the King would be pleased, out of his royal clemency, to do some popular acts of goodness, I mean, most Noble Lord, by adding some small additions to the ship-carpenters' wages, (for what signifies all the old English

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oaks in the kingdom, and fresh plantations of them, if there are no persons to handle the hatchet?) and taking particular care to employ our discarded British seamen. O gods! that our sailors and artificers should want a morsel of bread, who are our defenders! These two objects alone, duly performed, would regain the affections of the people, and combine, infold, and incorporate the King and people indissolubly. For, my Lord, when the affections of the King and people are alienated from one another, convulsions, misfortunes, schisms, and divisions are the consequences; and how dangerous it is for Princes to want the affections of their subjects, or to recede from, or alter the forms of government, is demonstrable from the advice of Virgil *,
the

* “Whilst Virgil enjoyed the sweets of a learned
“privacy, the troubles of Italy cut off his little sub-
“sistence; but by a strange turn of human affairs,
“which ought to keep good men from ever despairing,
“the loss of his estate proved the effectual way of ma-
“king his fortune. The occasion of it was this:
“Octavius, as himself relates, when he was but nine-
“teen years of age, by a masterly stroke of policy,
“had gained the veteran legions into his service,
“ (and by that step outwitted all the Republican Se-
“nate).

the prince of Latin poets, to Cæsar when he was staggering and wavering, whether

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to

“nate). They grew now very clamorous for their
 “pay. The treasury being exhausted, he was forced
 “to make assignments upon land, and none but in Italy
 “itself would content them. He pitched upon Cremona as the most distant from Rome; but that not sufficing, he afterwards threw in part of the State of Mantua. Cremona was a rich and noble Colony, settled a little before the invasion of Hannibal. During that tedious and bloody war, they had done several important services to the Common-wealth; and when eighteen other Colonies, pleading poverty and depopulation, refused to contribute money, or to raise recruits, they of Cremona voluntarily paid a double *quota* of both: But past services are a fruitless plea. Civil wars are one continued act of ingratitude. In vain did the miserable mothers, with their famishing infants in their arms, fill the streets with their numbers, and the air with lamentations: The craving legions were to be satisfied at any rate. Virgil, involved in the common calamity, had recourse to his old patron Pollio, but he was at this time under a cloud; however, compassionate so worthy a man, not of a make to struggle through the world, he did what he could, and recommended him to Mæcenas, with whom he still kept a private correspondence,” and by whose interest, at last, he recovered his estate.—Virgil believed the immortality of the soul, by supposing that souls ascended again to their proper and congenial stars, contrary to the notion of Pythagoras, the philosopher, who held the transmigration of souls, or that the soul, after the dis-

to retain the sovereign power, or restore the common-wealth.

“ The change of a popular into an absolute government has generally been of very ill consequence; for, betwixt the hatred of the people, and injustice of the prince, it of necessity comes to pass that they live in distrust and mutual apprehensions. But if the commons knew a just person, whom they entirely confided in, it would be for the advantage of all parties that such a one should be their sovereign. Wherefore, if you shall continue to administer justice impartially, as hitherto you have done, your power will prove safe to yourself and beneficial to mankind.”

With the greatest deference and respect,
Most Noble Lord, I presume to hint another

diffolution of the body, progressively entered from one body into another. There is a seeming similarity betwixt transubstantiation, or the mystical changing of bodies into other bodies or substances, and transmigration, or the mystical progression or changing of souls.

ther conceivable piece of policy to your Lordship; that is, my Lord, that neither his Most Sacred Majesty, or his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, the heir apparent to the crown, ought, by way of excursion and pacification, to commit their sacred royal persons to the Colonists. If they do, it is greatly to be dreaded they will be in the same unhappy situation as Charles the First was at the Isle of Wight.

Calamities in kingdoms, and diseases in human bodies, sometimes are stopped by timely, cautious, salutary preventions. Internal, horrible clouds of blood are gathering, and will soon disembogue, and disgorge themselves upon the Protestants, or Catholics, and the Roman Catholics in America, for want of a clear, thorough discussion and explication of the real, true intention of the treaty, and the indulgences thereof, respecting those Roman Catholics, at the conclusion of the last war. To hinder which carnage, if possible, I will (taking facts as they stand, and without descanting upon the propriety or impropriety of measures at the first,
or

or expatiating upon the new-appearing, large, forky, fiery meteor or star, as if it was angry at the civil broils in America, like those amongst brethren in Jerusalem before its destruction by Titus, in the northern hemisphere) concisely unfold.

In all conquered nations, my Lord, in case of a solemn war, the conquerors, by right of conquest, acquire a right of dominion, as well as a property over the things and persons that are fully conquered, because both parties, my Lord, have appealed to the highest tribunal that can be, to wit, the trial by war, wherein the great Judge and Sovereign of the world, the Lord of hosts, seems, in a more especial manner than in other cases, to decide the controversy; so that, my Lord, if we had acquired of the French those territorial lands in America by actual conquest, and not by capitulation, cession, or treaty, then those Roman Catholics there would have been upon the very same footing as the Roman Catholics in England, and, consequently, would have laboured under the same incapacities and burdens

burdens as the English Roman Catholics do, and then the present capitulated indulgences of the American Roman Catholics might have allowed just complaints and murmurings against our venerable and unsanguinary Archbishops and Bishops for partiality; but, under the present circumstances, all clamours and opprobriations against them are futile, vague, and ill-grounded. And, my Lord, if immaculate faith is not to be observed betwixt all nations in their compacts, conventions, agreements, or capitulations, there is an end of all intercourse and society, and men degenerate into a worse kind of species than that of brute beasts.

In this momentary, probationary vale of tears, my Lord, it is surprizing to see the diversity and multiplication of opinions touching and relating the Christian Godhead, and what wonderful rivers of blood are spilt, relative to some nice speculations, external modes, and forms of worship; and it is ten thousand pities there cannot be a coalition of the Christian religion. Kingdoms, like private families, divided amongst themselves, can
never

never stand. *Katbolikos, generalis*, or *universalis*, from whence Catholic is derived, is *nomen collectivum*; and, I think, besides universality, implies that every person who believes in the name of Jesus (the chain or link betwixt celestial and terrestrial beings, as the sensitive plant is betwixt the animal and vegetable creation) and that his principles and actions concenter in Him, is justly intitled to the denomination of a Catholic, and will, through Christ's mediation and intercession with his Father, be saved. In regard to essence, I think it is not material whether the bread and wine in the holy eucharist, after the consecration, be transubstantiated or not: It seems rather to me, rationally and metaphysically, to be improbable. It would be a derogation and indignity to the Godhead for the Creator, an intactible, purified, æthereal substance, to be grinded corporally with the teeth, and swallowed, corrupted, and evacuated by the Creature. The Greek words *το σῶμα μου*, *hoc est corpus meum*, this is my body, and *το αἷμα μου*, *hoc est sanguis meus*, this is my blood, spoken figuratively and synechdochally, must be taken

taken symbollically. Where *integer vitæ
scelerisque purus* predominate in Jesus *
Christ **, the Saviour, the anointed,
perfect unison; and whose immaculate
doctrines lead souls to the milky way †,
or

† Amongst other conjectures, I believe that either
a short circle, or compass of heaven, of three ells,
round almost the very ends, or extremities of the poles,
or the milky way of heaven, (by some numerical cal-
culation, or secret meaning, like Queen Dido's pur-
chase of land to build Carthage upon) help to solve
Virgil's ænigma in Ecl. iv. ver. 105.

Again: Perhaps the milky way is the sparkling
throne whereon the Gods sit to observe and scan the
actions of poor mortals here below; or, further, per-
haps is the splendid narrow pass, orifice, opening, or
inlet into heaven.

And, I think, the *Flos Solis*, the Sun-Flower, or
King's-Flower, goes near to solve his other ænigma
(in the next lines) of flowers springing up in coun-
tries with the names of kings inscribed, (like the la-
mentable inscription of CALAIS on Queen Mary's
heart); the Persians adoring, and some other hea-
thens (and, perhaps, amongst the rest, the immortal
Virgil) stedfastly believing that the † sun (a cœlestial,
im-

† Like the velocious opaque bodies, the moon and earth, (with their
borrowed lights) the refulgent, revolving planets and fixed stars, and like
Mahomet's coffin by the loadstone, is held up by gravity or attraction: And
which bright luminaries, the sun, planets, and stars, I verily believe, are
fed, nourished, and kept alive with God's cœlestial, spiritual efficacy, divine
emanations and effulgence, as earthly fires are vivified, or kept alive, with
oily, porous, sulphureous matter and substances.

or starry round of heaven, (infallible sign, or emblem, of eternity, as the rainbow is the infallible sign of God's covenant with mankind, that the world shall never be destroyed by an universal deluge of water again !) fantastical distinctions in religion are of no avail †.

My Lord, it was never doubted but that the Kings of this realm, with the consent and advice of both houses of
Parliament,

immoveable globe of reflexion, heat, or fire, computed to be three hundred times bigger than our earth, and placed in the center of the heavens for vivification, or nourishment, and a display of God's omnipotence and glory !) was the king of heaven, progenitor, and enlivener of all things.

† Ι'Α'ΟΜΑΙ *, *salvo*, and ΧΡΙ'Ω **, *ungo*; to save, and to anoint. From the divine example of anointment, and the Mosaic dispensation, (the prognostic or type of Christ) arose the custom of anointing kings at their coronation, hieroglyphically shewing that the Lord's anointed should not be hurt, or touched (like the shew-bread or the holy sacrament) with impure, unhallowed hands. And, on the contrary, indicating that kings, like the King of kings, should forgive and forget injuries, and be the saviours or conservators of the lives of their subjects, and gather them under their auspices and protection, as a partridge or a hen gather their little ones, or chickens, under their wings.

Parliament, (our Government being an agreeable compound of monarchy, aristocracy, and democracy, the finest political composition in the world!) have an unquestionable power to enact new laws, or to alter, repeal, or enforce the old. And in these distracted times,

“ When hard words, jealousies, and fears
 “ Set folks together by the ears,”

if there are any laws promulged and made which are nugatory, opposite, or contrary to the system, true establishment, and nature of the British Empire (which, I verily believe, without offence to the higher powers, but by way of argumentation or remonstrance, my Lord, some of the late enacted laws relating America are) it would be attended with the utmost cruelty and barbarity, that such pernicious, poisonous, heterodoxical, heterogeneous laws should be enforced. It is far better, my Lord, that many vile persons should escape punishment, than one just man should illegally and unjustly perish *.

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If

* What a cruel example was that of accumulative treason exercised upon the Noble Earl Strafford, in the reign of Charles the First, (and which dreadful catastrophe

If all our juvenile tricks and actions, inadvertencies, failings, and errors of judgment were, like old Chaos, collected into a body, or mass, and jumbled together in hotchpot, to form an accusation against a person he could not, through human frailty and virulent times, altho' he was as innocent as a lamb, had the sense of Minerva, the strength of Hercules, the arms of Briareus, unless he was as swift as Camilla, that in fleetness outstripped the winds, escape the rod. When the party has suffered death, it is a small satisfaction to him that an erroneous judgment is reversed.

The laws of diverse countries are founded upon reason and experience, and interwoven with the climate and constitution; and it is as difficult to pull up old
oaks

strophe that King might have prevented, and of which he repented to his dying day, either by not signing the fatal warrant by a general pardon, or a bill of indemnity, the last method being absolutely necessary, before national fevers grow outrageous, for well-meaning Ministers when, for the love of their country, they have, or it is doubtful they have over-shot themselves, and whose friends should avoid the palpable mistake committed by Cromwell's adherents when he thirsted after, and fainted away for the loss of the crown)?

oaks by the roots, or change the whole mass of blood, or for the same medicines, or nostrums, to operate and work alike upon different constitutions in different climates, as it is to change second nature, or old laws and customs.

Therefore, my Noble Lord G*****,
animo & fide †, every Englishman should use their joint endeavours to abolish and subvert contrarieties and innovations in our blessed constitution, as it fundamentally and entirely depends upon immemorial usage and custom, and cannot be twisted and twined to evil purposes, and perverted at pleasure. And if, under the sanction of acts of parliament, oppression and tyranny are introduced, they are virtually *ipso facto* void, and stand upon the same footing, and are no better than the diabolical inquisitions in Spain and Portugal, as is visible from the statute of Merton, *nolumus leges Angliæ mutare, &c.* (we will not change the laws of England, &c.); the unexampled decollation, or beheading of the aforesaid Earl Strafford; from John Maltravers, in
the

† His Lordship's motto.

the reign of Edward the Third, who had his attainder reversed, (which attainders are cousin germans to the Spanish inquisitions) because, contrary to the laws of the kingdom, he had never been heard in his own defence; from Judge Trefilian, and Brambre, an alderman of London, who were hanged in Richard the Second's reign for having signed advice contrary to the laws of the realm, and the liberties of the subject; and from the repeal of a statute made in Parliament by the King's single authority, pretending that he had not given his consent to it, if he had not been afraid that the Parliament would break up without finishing the public affairs *. Dated October 1, 1341,

As

* The true definition of allegiance, like the Gorgon's knot, binds the king and his subjects; or, according to Grotius, the governor and governed together (in whatever British dominions they be) in adamantine chains and cords of iron. And expedition in wars, building and repairing of castles and bridges in the Saxon times, were not marks of tenure, or of feudal service, but *omnibus hominibus communia*, a common burthen to all men, as belonging to the safety and sacred anchor of the kingdom and common-wealth; because, like the Crown, which cannot alienate its crown-lands without consent of Parliament, they could not be released,

As the Ladies, my Lord, are the most enchanting and angelic parts of the creation, and can work miracles with the Gentlemen, pray supplicate our most gracious, amiable, and religious Queen Charlotte to be immortalized and honoured (if it be possible to the most consummate virtue and royalty to add honour) with a negociation and mediation betwixt the King and the People, attended with a suitable retinue of British and American Ladies, in imitation of the good Queen Esther, (as Moses, the grand historian, politician, lawyer, and soldier, was our father as well as the father of the Jews) when she prayed to Ahasuerus for her own life and the lives of the people; and
in

leased, whether they were expressly excepted, (such exception being merely *per superabundantem cautelam*, through excessive caution; not for that they should be otherwise extinguished, but lest the general words preceding should be mistaken to involve them and release that which the King could not release) or were, or were not, specifically mentioned in their charters: They were not services, or feudal duties, as things that lay upon the person of the owner, but *landirecta* (like lays and taxes) *rights* that charged the very land, whosoever did possess it, church or layman. See Sir Henry Spelman's Posthumous Works, cap. x. p. 22, 23.

in imitation, upon the population of ancient Rome, of the Roman and Sabine Ladies, who, when their fathers, husbands, and brothers were piercing and slicing one another to atoms in battle with dishevelled hair, reconciled the contending parties; and in imitation of the good Godiva, when she saved Coventry from grievous taxes, or fines, imposed by her husband Leofrick, Earl of Mercia, at the hazard of modesty, which God almighty turned to her glory; to supplicate and intreat his Most Gracious Majesty to stop hostilities against his Majesty's Colonies; that all nugatory acts of parliament, and repugnant to our constitution, may be duly searched into, and repealed; that a general act of oblivion and forgiveness (without exceptions) may, in due time, ensue; and that, as soon as the circumstances of affairs will permit, all grievances whatsoever may, by commissioners to be elected on this and the other side the Western Ocean, be amicably adjusted and settled to the reciprocal comfort and blessing of Old-England and America *.

I

* The English and Americans may not improperly be compared to the indulgent father and the prodigal son

I am vastly afraid, Most Noble Sir, I
have encroached upon your Lordship's pa-
tience ;

son in the gospel ; for if the former would only, out of parental love and compassion, mitigate, rescind, and relax those requisitions and demands against the Americans, which, upon impartial scrutiny by commissioners, part English and part Americans, to be by those nations reciprocally nominated, but legally deputed and empowered by the Crown of Great Britain, (its prerogatives and rights always reserved) with full powers and authorities for those commissioners, under their hands and seals, upon the like nomination, to depute and empower other commissioners, as the exigencies of affairs in America should require, shall appear to be over hasty, unconstitutional, or unprecedented, it cannot be doubted but that the latter, out of contrition, filial affection, and obedience, and to avoid falling into the inexorable, despotic jaws of France and Spain, who, notwithstanding their hypocritical, delusive professions of friendship, are waiting to devour them like sharks, would, for succour and protection, immediately fly into the arms of their British parents. It is exceedingly more eligible for the Britons, and desponding interdicted Americans, (setting aside all inadvertent animosities, and healing the bleeding wounds of their countries) to eat the oysters themselves, and for their natural, inveterate enemies to take the shells. France and Spain fomenting divisions, and snarling at the English having auxiliaries, (which, in cases of emergency, from the times of the Romans and Vortigern, generally until now they have always had) and thereby binding their hands behind them like

E

Gallic

tience; and therefore I shall only add, that these few thoughts, which are as incoherent in themselves as they are incoherently written, are the result of my duty and allegiance to his Most Excellent Majesty, and the welfare of my Country; so that if I have expressed myself any ways inaccurately or disrespectfully, it is done innocently and undesignedly, and by way of emphasis, and more absolute expression, and I most humbly beg

Gallic slaves, plainly demonstrate their sinister, lurking intentions. Therefore, O Englishmen, before matters are driven to desperation, make a truce, suspend hostilities, appoint a secure place of negotiation, grant free passports, disappoint your mortal enemies, amicably shake hands with your brethren, the Americans or Sister-Globe, and, like the dove, pluck the olive branch, and embrace peace if possible: But if that cannot be effected upon honourable, pacific, conciliatory, milky terms, (only if it should appear that England has brought her action wrong, or is nonsuited, pray, my dear countrymen, is it not reasonable to make gentle allowances and indulgencies to the living defendants, and, with lamentations, prayers, hecatombs, and sacrifices, to appease the manes of the dead!) and no other alternative or choice is left but *bellona*, or bloody war, (which heaven avert!) *Britons, strike home!* be not too credulous to, daunted at, or infatuated with the grave Dons and sweet-scented Monfieurs.

[35]

beg his Majesty's, your Lordship's, and
other Noble Personages', spiritual and
temporal, pardons. I am,

Most Noble LORD,

Your Lordship's most dutiful,

Most obedient, and

Most humble Servant to command,

RICHARD-JOHN TETLOW,

Attorney at Law, F. S. A. and Notary
Publick.

Knottingley, near Pontefract, }
August 6, 1775. }

[25]

ing in Majesty's Court, and
other Noble Persons, spiritual and
temporal, persons of rank,

Most Noble Lords,

Your Lordships' humble petition,

that we should be

of the humble petition to your Lordships,

RICHARD JOHN TAYLOR

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London.

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